

**Prohlášení**  
Statement  
Déclaration

Vienna 23 April 2009

**Permanent Council No. 758**  
**EU Statement on the detention of OSCE MMOs on the road between**  
**Zemi Nikosi and Avnevi**

The EU took note with concern of the OSCE Mission to Georgia's detailed Spot Report of 21 April 2009 about the detention of an OSCE MMO patrol by South Ossetian militiamen on the road between Zemi Nikosi and Avnevi.

Such behaviour against representatives of the international community, who were fulfilling their tasks in accordance with their mandate and have diplomatic immunity is, as the Chairperson in Office has commented, wholly unacceptable and unnecessarily adds to tensions in the region. The EU attaches great importance to the security and freedom of movement of international observers, who contribute to the stability of the region including by building confidence between the sides.

The incident demonstrates once again the urgent need to implement the agreed incident prevention and response mechanism between the sides, as well as the importance of a meaningful OSCE monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines.

Finally, the EU reiterates its firm commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\* and FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA and MONTENEGRO, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area ICELAND and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE and the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.